

REMARKS

Claims 1-24 and 34-36 are pending. Claims 16-18 have been withdrawn from consideration as being drawn to non-elected subject matter.

Claims 1 and 11 have been amended to improve the clarity. No new matter has been added by way of the above-amendment.

I. Claim Objections

Claims 1 and 11 are objected to for containing the following informality: “operations part.” In response, Applicants have amended claims 1 and 11 as suggested by the Examiner by replacing the term “operations part” with the term “operation part”. As such, withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

II. Issues under 35 U.S.C. § 112, 1st paragraph

Claims 1-15, 19-24 and 34-36 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, 1st paragraph for containing new matter. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

Specifically, the Examiner objects to the phrase “said operations part comprises a piston member comprising a plunger extending from said second opening part side into said accommodation part.” It appears that the Examiner is objecting to the fact that the specification does not recite that the operation part comprises a piston member.

Applicants note from the specification and Fig. 1, that the piston member (5) comprises the operation part (34) and not the reverse order (i.e., the operation part comprises a piston member). In order to clarify the invention, Applicants have amended claims 1 and 11 to clarify that the piston member comprises the operation part. As such, withdrawal of the new matter rejection is respectfully requested.

III. Issues under 35 U.S.C. § 112, 2nd paragraph

Claim 11 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, 2nd paragraph for allegedly being indefinite. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

Specifically, the Examiner objects to the fact that claim 11 recites an *independent* pressure sensor and it is unclear what the pressure sensor is independent of.

In response, Applicants have amended claim 11 by replacing the phrase “wherein each independent pressure sensor is connected to each apparatus for separating and purifying nucleic acids,” with the phrase “wherein each apparatus comprises a pressure sensor.”. In view of the above-amendment, the claims particularly point out and distinctly recite what Applicants regard as the invention. As such, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

In view of the above remarks, it is believed that claims are allowable.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Garth M. Dahlen, Ph.D., Reg. No. 43,575 at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

Application No. 10/808,411
Amendment dated February 27, 2008
Reply to Office Action of December 4, 2007

Docket No.: 0649-0994PUS1

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37.C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.14; particularly, extension of time fees.

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Respectfully submitted,

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